

The COMMUNICATOR



YL SYSTEM SINCE 1963

ISSUE 353 – JULY 2026

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Greetings Members,

Summer has arrived and a time for summer fun, whether it's, time in the garden, hanging out by the pool, back yard barbecuing or just quality time with family and friends one thing is certain, poor amateur band conditions will persist... summer brings "high sun" and increased band degradation, along with summer hash... noise. It is important to understand the difference between QRM and QRN, additionally EMI and RFI. Newer radios have many features to mitigate noise, learning these functions will greatly improve your summer radio experience.

Modern electronics have significantly raised the noise floor for amateur radio operators, making weak signals harder to hear and reducing overall reception quality. Why is there so much noise? The main local cause is the widespread use of switch-mode power supplies (SMPS) from phone chargers, laptop power bricks, LED lamps, solar inverters, routers, smart TVs, and IoT gadgets... (on and on you get the idea). These cheap designs often don't have RF filtering and feature plastic enclosures, which are poor EMI shields, making leakage more common... emitting broadband RF noise and harmonics that can spread across HF, VHF, and sometimes UHF bands. Even a single noisy device can raise the noise floor several S-units, a whole house full can make entire bands unusable.

The culprits:

- LED lighting especially street lights with fast switching drivers, they generate strong wideband hash, reaching below 30Mhz.

- Smart appliances and IoT devices, Internet / Ethernet over power lines add persistent RF noise. Yes.. my gas, water and power meters are all “on line” with IoT.
- Power line issues... loose devices, older home wiring, arcing transformers, and aging distribution systems produce variable broadband noise.
- Industrial and home electronics... fence chargers, garage door openers, fish tank heaters, and medical/industrial equipment can emit strong RFI.
- Electromagnetic interference (EMI) and radio frequency interference EMI can be natural, lightning and solar flares additionally motors, power lines, and again certain appliances / electronics.

Mitigation Strategies:

- Use ferrite cores on power cords and RF cables to suppress conducted and radiated noise.
- Install AC line and mains filters to block RF from entering or leaving the shack / QTH.
- Choose low-EMI devices or replace noisy SMPS with filtered or linear power supplies.
- Shield and ground equipment properly to reduce CMC common-mode noise.

In short, the rise in local ham radio noise is largely due to the proliferation of unfiltered, high-switching-rate electronics. While we can't eliminate all noise, careful selection of equipment, filtering, and installation practices can help keep your station quiet.

We just are immersed in electromagnetic radiation,

Be Safe Happy and Fulfilled

Bill
W4WSB
President



UPCOMING AWARDS
FOR JULY 2026

July Special Day – July 9

FIRST RESPONDERS
SPECIAL DAY AWARD

To complete this award,
contact six (6) members as
designated first
responders on Netlogger.

July Monthly Award

INDEPENDENCE AWARD

To complete this award,
contact 25 member stations
located in the 13 original
colonies of the United
States. The original 13
colonies were Delaware,
Massachusetts, New Jersey,
Georgia, Connecticut,
Maryland, South Carolina,
New Hampshire, Virginia,
New York, North Carolina,
Pennsylvania, and Rhode
Island.

Awards

The following award certificates were awarded in
June 2026:

June

One member earned the Cuatro Special Day Award

This award is granted for contacting five members
whose YL System number ends with a four.

Steven, VE3JPJ, Cuatro Award

SPECIAL AWARDS

Three members earned Service Awards

Issued to any YL System Scheduled Control Stations
and their assistants for every 100 hours as a Control
Station. Members earning 1000 hours, with time
beginning as of August 1, 2009, will be awarded 2
years of free dues.

Mickey, KI5TPF – submitted awards for 100 hr, 200 hr,
300 hr

Robert, KJ5PBZ – submitted awards for 100 hr, 200
hr, 300 hr

Walt, VE3FHE – earned the award for 700 hr

Summer Award

This award is earned by working any 50 members during the System's First and Second daily periods and ONLY during the months of June, July, and August.

How to Participate in the Awards Program

Get on the air and start making contacts! These awards are open to all club members, and we encourage everyone to participate, from seasoned operators to those just getting started.

Keep a spreadsheet of your contacts to verify you've met the requirements. Be sure to include date, time, frequency, station call signs, and YL System Member ID# for each contact.

Submit your log via email to awards@ylsystem.org.

Once verified, you'll receive a certificate PDF to commemorate your achievement! Display it proudly as a reminder of your on-air activity and dedication to the hobby.

These awards are a fantastic way to engage with the system. We can't wait to hear you on the air. Let's make some great QSO memories together!

IF YOU ARE A PERIOD CONTROL, YOU CANNOT USE CONTACTS FROM THAT PERIOD FOR AN AWARD.

CONTACTS MADE USING AN SDR DO NOT COUNT FOR AN AWARD. CONTACTS MUST BE MADE RADIO TO RADIO.

JUNE NEW MEMBERS

19723 N1RWH	Roger	19732 W5JC	James
19724 KG7VNZ	Greg	19733 KF8FSQ	Fred
19725 K6TWE	Tom	19734 NOMIC	Mike
19726 KZ2T	Robert	19735 KB4BOB	Robert
19727 W1NBS	Steve	19736 WB7QVM	Les
19728 N2EDH	Mike	19737 W8GQ	William
19729 KJ5LKJ	Dennis	19738 K5GGC	Bobby
19730 WA3HPF	Jeff	19739 W3HCL	Howard
19731 KI7QCP	Gregory		

BIRTHDAYS

David AEOPF
Milton AG7E
Susan AI5LZ
Stan KOADJ
Bill KOUB
Jim K3VRU
Roy K4ROY
Milt K6OXY
Bob K6TCC
Tom K6TWE
Mike K7CIT
Doug K7DCE
Oren K7EDZ
Joe K7HYM
Cort K8RRC
Kenneth K8ZAR
Francis K8ZXY
Ronald K9SX
Bob KAOENU
Allen KB3OMO

Virginia KC5SAM
Brad KD8LWZ
Eric KEOIGK
Michael KEOSOR
Lyle KEOZNV
David KE4ETG
Curt KFOVHN
Duane KG7LXA
Larry KI5UXC
Donald KJ4DC
Robert KJ5GRE
Elvin KK7HSO
James KM4TT
Velmer C KN4RGR
Robert KQ4PTN
William KZ4EU
Rick N3RAD
David N4RTB
Ray N4VWD
Richard N5FNM

Rex N5TDA
Jo N6NTJ
Bob N7AZX
Greg N9HCY
John N9SPG
Kerry NQ4AE
PAIGE WOFLZ
Justin W4DNY
Doug W6HB
Chip W9OQI
Patrick W9PDP
Bill WA7YAD
Doug WB7CAT

ANNIVERSARIES

John KR4EZM
Stan AC8W
Evan AC9TU
Terry K2EYS
Lawrence K4MOD
Joe K7HYM
Alexander KA9OUT
William KC9KZ
Tony KD9ANS
Andre KF5FSK
Duane KG7LXA
Richard KI2X

Jay KI4TXP
LARRY KI7HCK
Donald KJ4DC
Jack KJ5EJV
Dick KJ5NKV
James KM4TT
Noji KNOJI
Roger KQ4YXH
Mike NODMK
Robb NOKGM
John N3DXR
Tony N4TMH

Pete N5ANB
Malcolm VE4MG
Kevin W5KPR
Mark W5MLM
Dan W7DOK
Herb W9DTR
Ann WA1S
Bill WA7YAD
Ray WB7VNL
Bryan WZ5DX

SILENT KEYS

Dr. Donald Chamberlain W9DC #162

Announcing an invitation to submit info about your gear, shack and antennas.

(We already know about you) Please send your info with a photo or photos and a brief description to: communicator@ylsystem.org